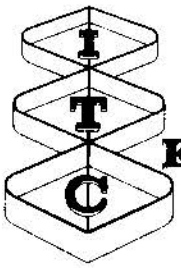
# WET JOB

(a ninety-minute play)




ENTERTAINMENT
AN GCC COMPANY

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ITC Entertainment presents:-

"WET JOB" (VTR/5945/81)

(a ninety minute play)

The reluctant secret service agent, David Callan, is pressed into service again for a job tailored to his special talents in "WET JOB", a ninety-minute play which reunites Edward Woodward as Callan with Russell Hunter as Lonely, his smelly sidekick. Produced and directed by Shaun O'Riordan and written by its original creator James Mitchell, the play also stars Angela Browne, George Sewell, Helen Bourne, Hugh Walters, Anthony Smee and Milos Kirek. It is distributed by ITC Entertainment.

Ten years on, Callan has not changed much. "He drinks more than he used to," said Edward Woodward, shrugging into the role like a comfortable old coat. Callan is grey now and hornrimmed glasses hide the steely eyes. Retirement from the service has left him running a shop specialising in militaria - uniforms, old weapons, badges and the like. And he's reasonably content in his retirement when prised back into the service which, he discovers, hasn't changed much either. It's still an ugly, complicated game where the lines between villains and heroes blur.

Location filming took the unit into the seedier streets of Islington, North London, and to pleasanter pastures in Hertfordshire, as well as ATV's Elstree Studios.

Since he last played Callan, Edward Woodward, always among that handful of actors who seem never to stop working, has enjoyed considerable success for the film he made in Australia, 'Breaker Morant', playing a disgraced Army officer. Other notable film roles have been Captain Haldane in 'Young Winston', 'The Wicker Man' with Christopher Lee, 'Stand Up Virgin Soldiers' as well as the film version of 'Callan'. His recent television has included 'The Trial of Lady Chatterley', a BBC reconstruction of the celebrated trial in which he played Mervyn Griffiths Jones QC, a two part thriller 'Blunt Instrument', the comedy series 'Nice Work' with Hilary Tindall, and the Emmy award winning play by David Mercer, 'Rod of Iron'.

In addition, Woodward has toured the world in stage productions, including 'The Male of the Species', 'HMS Pinafore' (his Gilbert and Sullivan debut in 1977), 'On Approval', 'The Dark House' and 'Private Lives'.

As a recording artist he has enjoyed considerable acclaim.

Woodward obviously enjoys every facet of his career, particularly the growing success of his children, Peter and Tim. He says that he always believed he would succeed as an actor: "Every actor must believe that when he's beginning or why bother to do it? You've got to have faith."

His has certainly been well rewarded.

Russell Hunter, the Glasgow-born actor who played Callan's sidekick, Lonely, in the series, recreates his role briefly in "WET JOB" (the title, incidentally, is secret agent parlance for an essentially messy mission). Russell Hunter has worked with singular success in the Scottish theatre as well as appearing with the Old Vic, Regent's Park Open Air Theatre, the Bristol Old Vic and the Royal Shakespeare Company. He has played pantomime dames with distinction and his television appearances include 'Mackenzie', 'Thriller', 'Five Red Herrings', 'Charlie Endell Esq', 'Mind Your Language' and most recently 'The Gaffer' with Bill Maynard as the boss of a light engineering firm and Russell Hunter as his Scottish shop steward.

The distinguished cast working alongside Edward Woodward and Russell Hunter in "WET JOB" includes George Sewell as Haggerty, Angela Browne as Callan's landlady and sometime mistress Margaret, Helen Bourne as Lucy Smith, Hugh Walters, Anthony Smee and Milos Kirek as Czechoslovakian dissident Anton Dobrovsky, the man who triggers the whole series of events that catapult Callan out of peaceful retirement.

"WET JOB" was produced and directed by Shaun O'Riordan, written by James Mitchell and designed by David Chandler. Distributed by ITC Entertainment.

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"WET JOB" (VTR/5945/81)

SYNOPSIS

Prised out of his comfortable retirement David Callan discovers that nothing much has changed in the security service. It's still an ugly, complicated game where the lines between villains and heroes blur and vengeance leads inexorably to death.....

* * *

For David Callan, retirement from the secret service has brought a new identity (David Tucker), a new business (a shop called 'The Old Brigade' specialising in militaria), a new mistress (his landlady Margaret Channing, widow of a Liberal MP) and a kind of middle age contentment.

But he discovers that "once a secret service operative, always a secret service operative" when a call comes summoning him to headquarters. He receives the message during a party at Margaret's where he briefly meets her niece, Lucy Robson Smith (L R Smith to her friends), a philosophy don at Oxford.

The call to headquarters, otherwise C Hunter Ltd., Dealers in Scrap Metal, brings Callan face to face with the fourth 'Hunter' he's encountered in his career. And Callan is not a little miffed at having his peaceful retirement interrupted, suspecting he's been set up. After all, he was advised to rent a room from Margaret Channing. Not at all, says Hunter, we just wanted you to be aware of certain facts.

Like the fact that Daniel Haggerty, former politician, champion of the poor and oppressed (CND, Ban the Bomb, Reform the Prisons, Curb the Police, Make Abortion Compulsory) is after him. Who's Haggerty, asks Callan. But when the name of Millington is mentioned he does remember, as well he might, since he killed Millington. Millington lived with a woman who just happened to be Haggerty's daughter. Before he died, Millington wrote a letter implicating Callan. Now Haggerty is writing an autobiography and intending a nice juicy chapter about Callan. The book's being ghosted by L R Smith, philosophy don at Oxford. The same L R Smith who is the niece of Callan's landlady.

Already there's a scent of the past. A past Callan thought dead and buried. Reactivating it is no pleasure, but it has to be done.

Callan unexpectedly meets Haggerty when the man visits Callan's shop offering to sell old military artefacts. He tells Callan he runs a demolition business specialising in stately homes. At present he's in Oxford.

At home, talking to Margaret, Callan discovers that Lucy Robson Smith is involved with a Czechoslovakian dissident who's disappeared. The dissident, Anton Dobrovsky, has been spirited through Austria, Italy and now France. But the French demand an extra £5,000 from L R Smith and her friends for the safe conduct of Dobrovsky to England.

Not knowing where she can acquire the extra funds, Lucy confides in Daniel Haggerty. In view of his known record, it seems a safe confidence. And it is: he promises money, and more, a safe place for Dobrovsky to hide while asylum is sought from the British Government. You shouldn't underestimate the power of the KGB to find Dobrovsky, Haggerty tells her.

Callan tries to persuade his old accomplice, Lonely, to help him, but Lonely isn't interested. He's going straight, running a successful business, 'Fresh and Fragrant Bathroom Installations'. What's more, he's getting married, so he can't get involved. He'll be on his honeymoon in Florida. But he does reluctantly help Callan pick up a safe deposit box containing a .357 Magnum, a box of ammo and 17 Kruger Rands. Callan can't do it himself, he tells Lonely, because he's

being watched all the time - by Hunter's heavy, Thorne, and possibly by others as well.

In the final analysis Callan copes like the professional he used to be. But the fate of Dobrovsky, Haggerty and Lucy Robson Smith are an entanglement any retired secret service operative can do without.

Particularly Callan.....

THE CAST

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|---|---|
| Callan | EDWARD WOODWARD |
| Lonely | RUSSELL HUNTER |
| Margaret Channing | ANGELA BROWNE |
| Haggerty | GEORGE SEWELL |
| Lucy Smith | HELEN BOURNE |
| Hunter | HUGH WALTERS |
| Thorne | ANTHONY SMEE |
| Dobrovsky | MILOS KIREK |
| Radlett | DONALD HOATH |
| Jebb | PHILIP BIRD |
| Cawthorne | DAVID CANN |
| Pardoe | GORDON KANE |
| Mrs Radlett | JOSIE KIDD |
| Robin Miller | JEREMY GITTINS |
| Young Man | MARK DRAPER |
| Liz | FELICITY HARRISON |
| Tim | PHILIP MANIKUM |

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| Producer/director: | SHAUN O'RIORDAN |
| Writer: | JAMES MITCHELL |
| Designer: | DAVID CHANDLER |

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